

"Unite to Read"

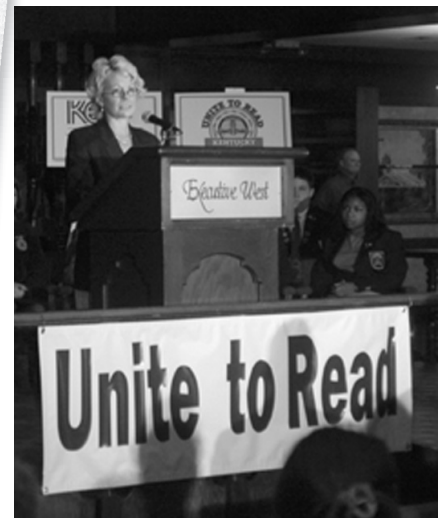
A Statewide Joint Student Organization Literacy Project



Kentucky Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSO)
Future Educators of America (FEA)
Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP)



The Kentucky
Network
Business Partnership



Office of Career and Technical Education, Department for Workforce Investment
Division of Career and Technical Education, Kentucky Department of Education

STUDENTS GIVE LITERACY LEADERSHIP WITH "UNITE TO READ"

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) -- Unite to Read, a statewide literacy project designed by members of Kentucky's Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), is set to be implemented in schools across the state in the 2004-05 school year.

The project was unveiled today at a news conference held in conjunction with a meeting of state CTSO officers in Louisville.

Unite to Read is designed to promote literacy and lifelong reading among schoolchildren in the state. Project partners include the Kentucky Department of Education's Division of Career and Technical Education, the Department for Technical Education, the Future Educators of America (FEA), Kentucky's Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP) and nearly 50,000 middle and high school CTSO members, who will lead the project in their respective schools.

The project will dovetail with the KET/PBS Ready to Learn Program and the PBS Kids -- Share a Story initiative. Ready to Learn is a media and family literacy service that distributes high-quality books through free workshops. The Share a Story initiative is a national literacy campaign that inspires adults to help children develop language and literacy skills through daily activities such as reading, drawing, storytelling, rhyming and singing. First Lady Laura Bush serves as honorary national chair of the campaign.

Mary Alice Birdwhistell, a student at Anderson County High School and president of the Kentucky Association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), said that Unite to Read marks the first time that CTSOs, FEA and STLP members have joined together in a statewide project.

"Each of the participating organizations is an integral part of the middle and high school curriculum," she said. "As high school students, each of us understands the importance of being able to read at a high level and are pleased to be working together to promote literacy and lifelong learning."

Unite to Read is focused on literacy awareness from the primary grades through middle and high school. CTSO students will implement projects at the various grade levels:

- Primary (entering school through 3rd grade) -- Participating schools will conduct a Share a Story night during the week of October 18-22. Children and parents from local elementary schools will be invited, and activities will demonstrate interdisciplinary ways of reading a book. The program will emphasize the importance of involving schools, families and communities to address literacy issues.
- Middle and High School -- A Unite to Read Certificate Program will encourage students to read books during the school year by providing gold, silver or bronze seal certificates tied to the number of books read. CTSOs, FEA and STLP will sponsor events throughout the school year to promote reading, and students will be recognized in local awards programs.

CTSOs provide a unique program of career and leadership development, motivation and recognition exclusively for middle/junior high and secondary students enrolled in career and technical programs.

CTSOs include the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), FCCLA, FFA, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Technology Student Association (TSA) and SKILLS USA-VICA.

STLP, established in 1994, is a project-based learning program that empowers students in all grade levels to use technology in and out of the classroom. The organization has approximately 5,000 members statewide.

FEA, with nearly 2,000 members statewide, is designed to encourage talented high school students to consider education related professions by providing opportunities to assume leadership roles in a classroom environment. Most Kentucky FEA chapters are affiliated with Phi Delta Kappa, the national professional fraternity in education; however, there are several independent chapters.

“Unite to Read” School Participation Form

Each school should decide on a contact person to receive materials for the project to be developed.

Complete the form below and return to:

Nancy Graham

Fax: 502-564-7371

2111 CPT 500 Mero Street

Email: ngraham@kde.state.ky.us

Frankfort, KY 40601

Name of School: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone: _____ School Fax: _____

Name of Contact/Person/Organization for CTSO Project: _____

Representing Organization: _____

List the CTSO, STLP, or FEA organizations at your school/ATC that plan to participate and the advisor's information:

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